

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 PA-04 /027 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 868

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV - MAY 21,

1974 RADIO/TV - MAY 20.

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: CBS REPORTS ISRAELI MINISTER PERES TOLD NEWSMEN
DISENGAGEMENT DEAL MAY BE COMPLETED THURSDAY OR FRIDAY.
KALB SAYS PRESS NOT MANIPULATED BY HAK. NO TV TRAVELERS
CARRIED NET PROGRAMS MAY 20.

1. CBS-TV 7:00 A.M. MAY 21 KALB FROM JERUSALEM.
SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM DAMASCUS LAST NIGHT
KISSINGER RESUMED HIS NEGOTIATION WITH ISRAELI LEADERS.
IT LASTED TILL TWO O'CLOCK THIS MORNING, THEN FOR FORTY-
FIVE MINUTES HE MET ALONE WITH PM MEIR. ISRAELI MINISTER
PERES THEN TOLD NEWSMEN THAT A DISENGAGEMENT DEAL BETWEEN
SYRIA AND ISRAEL MAY BE COMPLETED BY THURSDAY OR FRIDAY
OF THIS WEEK. IT IS ASSUMED HERE THAT MRS. MEIR WILL
INITIAL ONE COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT IN JERUSALEM, PRESIDENT
ASAD ANOTHER COPY IN DAMASCUS -- KISSINGER THE MAILMAN
SHUTTling BETWEEN THE TWO CAPITALS. THIS MORNING, THE
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SECRETARY MET ONE MORE TIME WITH ISRAELI LEADERS BEFORE

DEPARTING FOR DAMASCUS. HE WILL SPEND THE DAY THERE, RETURNING TO ISRAEL LATE TONIGHT. KISSINGER BELIEVES 'GOOD PROGRESS' IS BEING MADE TOWARD AN AGREEMENT AND

HE DOGGEDLY PRESSES ON.

2. CBS - RADIO - MARVIN KALB 1ST LINE REPORT FROM JERUSALEM - MAY 21

KISSINGER IS UNIQUE AMONG SECRETARIES OF STATE. HE WANTS NEWSMEN TO TRAVEL ALONG WITH HIM AND THEY WANT TO. HE IS A RUNNING STORY WHEREVER HIS BLUE AND WHITE JET LANDS ON A MISSION OF MERCY OR PEACE MAKING. THERE IS ROOM ON KISSINGER'S PLANE FOR ONLY FOURTEEN NEWSMEN AND WOMEN IN THE REAR OF THE PLANE. IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THIS TRIP, HE WOULD OFTEN INVITE THE NEWSMEN UP TO HIS COMPARTMENT FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS. KISSINGER CANNOT BE QUOTED, THOSE ARE THE GROUND RULES OF THE PLANE; BUT THESE CHATS PROVIDE USEFUL INSIGHTS INTO THE STYLE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE SECRETARY'S MISSION. IN THE LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, HE HAS KEPT THE NEWSMEN IN THE REAR. HE VISITS THEM RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. THE CHATS TAKE PLACE IN THE AISLE, EVERYONE SHOUTING OVER THE ROAR OF THE ENGINES. IT IS NOT ELEGANT BUT IT IS STILL VERY USEFUL. KISSINGER IS ACCESSIBLE AND OCCASIONALLY DEPENDING ON THE SENSITIVITY OF A NEGOTIATION, REMARKABLY FRANK. HE LIKES TO THINK OF THE TRAVELING PRESS CORPS AS THE BEST INFORMED IN THE WORLD FOLLOWING EVERY NUANCE IN THE NEGOTIATION ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY WERE PARTIES TO IT. THERE HAVE BEEN CHARGES LATELY THAT FAR FROM BEING THE BEST INFORMED THEY ARE THE BEST MANAGED, MANIPULATED BY KISSINGER FOR KISSINGER'S OWN ENDS. SUCH CHARGES HAVE THEIR ORIGINS IN THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT NEVER BEFORE HAVE OFFICIALS ATTEMPTED TO MANIPULATE THE PRESS AND KISSINGER IS ATTEMPTING SOMETHING UNIQUE; NOT SO. OFFICIALS HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO MANIPULATE NEWSMEN, ONLY KISSINGER HAS BEEN A LOT MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THE OTHERS. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PRESS IS ALWAYS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER. ANY OUTSIDER COULD WATCH THE CHAOTIC SCENE OF KISSINGER CHATTING WITH NEWSMEN ON HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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PLANE AND CONCLUDE THAT THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF JOURNALISM AT ITS WORST, INDEPENDENT NEWSMEN IN EFFECT SPOUTING THE KISSINGER LINE. A NEWSMAN PARTICIPATING IN THIS SORT OF JOURNALISM IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO REPORT ANYTHING KISSINGER SAYS. THE NEWSMAN CAN IGNORE HIM TOTALLY AND RELY ON OTHER SOURCES IN JERUSALEM OR DAMASCUS. HE CAN ACCEPT PART OF WHAT HE SAYS OR MOST OF IT, HE CAN CONSIDER KISSINGER A SAINT OR A DEVIL; HE CAN HANG ON HIS EVERY

WORD OR MOCK IT SO LONG AS HE REALIZES THAT KISSINGER IS
AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME TRYING TO INFORM THE PUBLIC
THROUGH THE PRESS AND CONTROL THE FLOW OF INFORMATION SO
AS TO FACILITATE HIS NEGOTIATION OR HIS OWN PUBLIC IMAGE.

BUT, IT IS NEVER ONE OR THE OTHER. WITH KISSINGER,
WITH THIS AND WITH MOST OTHER THINGS, IT IS USUALLY THE
MIX OF TWO OR MORE MOTIVATIONS GENERALLY ACTED ON MANY
LEVELS. HE IS A MERCURIAL MAN, MOODY ONE MINUTE, PLACID
THE NEXT, ANGRY AT A STAFF MAN, CHARMING TO A NEWSMAN
BUT ALWAYS IN CHARGE. HE IS CAUGHT IN THE CYCLE OF HIS
OWN SUCCESS. SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS LOOK TOWARDS HIM TO
PERFORM MIRACLES THEY FEEL ARE BEYOND THEM. THEY RESENT
IT WHEN HE ASKS FOR CONCESSIONS. WHEN HE THREATENS TO
LEAVE, THEY PLEAD WITH HIM TO STAY. WHEN HE ASKS WHETHER
THEY WANT PEACE THEY SAY YES LOUDLY, THOUGH WHEN HE ASKS
WHETHER THEY ARE READY TO YIELD A KILOMETER FOR PEACE
THEY SHOUT BACK, NOT ONE INCH. HE GOES ON AND WE TAG
ALONG. RUSH

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